



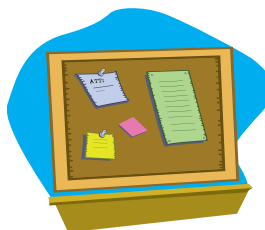
ALASKA WIC VENDOR TRAINING NEWSLETTER

State of Alaska, Department of Health and Social Services
Office of Children's Services
Family Nutrition Services / WIC Program
Internet: <http://www.hss.state.ak.us/ocs/nutri/WIC>

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Please post this where it will be
seen and read by employees.
This newsletter serves as required
vendor training.

WIC Vendor Compliance and the Sanction System

Authorized WIC vendors must comply with the vendor agreement, Federal and State statutes, regulations, policies, and procedures governing the Program, including any changes made during the agreement period. The State agency is required to monitor vendors for program compliance and to implement measures to detect and prevent fraud and abuse.

Methods include:

- ♦ **Vendor Monitoring Visits**
Usually done by the Local WIC Agency staff to monitor for compliance, conduct training if possible and promote good vendor relations to improve service delivery to clients
- ♦ **Compliance Buys**
An "undercover" WIC employee shops with WIC warrants to see if the store allows violations
- ♦ **Secret Shoppers**
A regular WIC client shops for WIC foods and reports on how cashiers handle WIC transactions
- ♦ **Inventory Audit**
WIC staff review the store's orders and inventory records to determine if the quantity of WIC foods ordered supports the reported level of WIC sales



Vendor violations may result in assessment of monetary claims or other sanctions in accordance with the Penalty Point and Sanction System.

Penalty Points

- ♦ May be assessed for program violations; (higher points for more serious violations)
- ♦ Points accumulate and may result in probation, suspension or disqualification
- ♦ May be removed if compliance improves

Mandatory Federal Sanctions

- ♦ Involve significant program abuse
Trafficking in WIC warrants, selling firearms, ammunition, explosives or controlled substances for WIC warrants, or a pattern of selling unauthorized foods
- ♦ May result in disqualification of one year to permanent, depending on severity of the offense

Please reference the Vendor Manual Chapter 6 for more detail.

WIC Vendor

Teleconference Training #3

The next interactive training session for 2006 will be held October 10th and 11th, 9am - 10am. It is the last session that will be offered this year and will cover Vendor Compliance, the Sanction System and Changes to the Program.

These are not mandatory trainings, but all vendors are encouraged to have staff participate.

Dates and topics for future training will be announced in future newsletters.

Registration is required. A registration form with details was mailed with this newsletter. All vendor staff is encouraged to participate. Please call 465-3100 for additional information or to receive another registration form.

Upcoming Events and Deadlines

- September 30, 2006 - Current Vendor Agreements Expire
- October 10 & 11, 2006, 9:00 - 10:00 am Vendor Teleconference Training # 3 (Registration Required)
- October 16-20, 2006 - AK Assoc. of WIC Coord (AKAWICC) Fall Mtg
- December 2006 - Next Newsletter



REMINDER: PROPERLY STAMP ALL WIC WARRANTS WITH VENDOR NUMBER!

During recent monthly WIC warrant inspections, State WIC staff have been finding numerous WIC warrants with missing, illegible or incorrectly placed Vendor ID numbers. All WIC vendors should use the stamps that have the vendor number underlined. Prior to deposit, the vendor ID number **must** be stamped in the box just below the amount on the front of each warrant. **WIC warrants with these types of redemption errors, may result in monetary claims from the State agency.**

Please make sure your store is using the correct stamp. If you cannot locate it, contact our office at 465-3100 to order another one.

Vendor Staff Contact Information

Vendor Coordinator, Chris Blanchfield (907) 465-8630
chris_blanchfield@health.state.ak.us (formerly Chris Kelly)
Ass't Vendor Coordinator, Diane VanEpps (907) 465-4704
diane_vanepps@health.state.ak.us
Admin Clerk, Coriann Fischer (907) 465-3388
CoriannF@health.state.ak.us

Personnel Update

Coriann Fisher, was recently hired to fill the Administrative Clerk III position. We look forward to having her as part of the Vendor Management Team.

Q & A

Why do some WIC warrants allow purchase of items not on the approved food list such as "canned" instead of dried beans?

In some areas, there may be WIC participants that are homeless or living in shelters without access to cooking facilities or refrigeration. These individuals may be issued WIC warrants with items not included on the regular list of WIC-approved foods.

For instance, they may purchase canned beans instead of dry beans at a substitution rate of 4 - 16oz.cans OR 8 - 8oz. cans per 1 pound of dry beans. If a WIC warrant includes canned beans **only** the following types are allowed:

- ◆ Mature legumes **without sauces** or other major ingredients, such as meat or other vegetables;
- ◆ Baked beans that are cooked navy or white beans in a tomato-based sauce. Varieties of these must be plain, vegetarian," with pork," or "with bacon."

They may also buy juice in smaller containers than normally allowed, (but only if printed on the warrant).



Quick Review - Authorized Juice Sizes:

No Cartons and No 64 oz. containers are authorized!

- ◆ 46 oz. Cans
- ◆ 46 oz. Plastic (Campbells Tomato or V8 only)
- ◆ 12 oz. Frozen Concentrates
- ◆ 11.5 oz. Welch's 100% Pourable Concentrates

Current Vendor Agreements Expire Sept. 30, 2006



All vendors with current contracts need to apply and be approved for re-authorization in order to continue accepting WIC warrants after Sept. 30, 2006. The new contract duration will be for a three (3) year period. (10/1/06 - 9/30/06)

Re-authorization packets were mailed to current vendors in late August. The completed application, price sheet and agreement are due in our office by September 15, 2006. There are some changes to vendor selection and re-authorization criteria.

Federal regulations require that vendors submit new application forms so we can verify that vendors meet current eligibility criteria. If your store's application is approved, you will be notified and sent a signed copy of your new WIC Vendor Agreement. The agreement is valid only when signed by both the vendor and the State agency representative

Failure to meet vendor selection criteria, or to provide required documentation, is just cause for re-authorization to be denied. In addition, failure to submit all three documents by the deadline may delay, or result in denial of your re-authorization.

If you have not received a re-authorization packet, please contact our office immediately to receive one.

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